

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendments filed 8/11/2010, have been fully considered and reviewed by the examiner. In view of the amendment the examiner has withdrawn the 35 USC 112 1st paragraph rejections and the prior art rejection. The examiner notes the Yara references, the closes prior art, specifically discloses the pulse duration and the coating on either of the electrodes.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joseph Wilson on 9/17/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 5, and 7.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art, Yara, discloses a pulse duration of 1000ns or more and the coating on either of the electrodes will prevent arcing and therefore there is no reasonable expectation of

successful results in the deposition using the DLC layer with the disclosed properties using a pulse duration and lack of coatings on the electrodes as claimed. Therefore in view of the teaching of the prior art collectively one would not expect predictable results in using the pulse duration as claimed and electrodes free of any coatings in combination with the other claim limitations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Turocy whose telephone number is (571)272-2940. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesdays 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and Thursday 7-10 a.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Meeks can be reached on (571) 272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1715

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David Turocy/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1715